

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BELGRA 02252 221208 Z

41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 129194

O R 221040 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6252
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

S E C R E T BELGRADE 2252

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR GR YO US
SUBJ: OPENING OF SKOPJE INFORMATION CENTER

1. IN CONSIDERING QUESTION RAISED ATHENS 3075, DEPARTMENT
SHOULD NOT ASSUME THAT GOY WOULD ACCEPT CANCELLATION OF PLANS
FOR KEOGH ATTENDANCE CALMLY AND WITH UNDERSTANDING.

2. AS DEPT AND USIA AWARE, LONG BEFORE RECEIPT OF USIAC 8899
EMBASSY HAD ALREADY INDICATED TO TOP OFFICIALS OF INFORMATION
SECRETARIAT POSSIBILITY OF KEOGH VISIT AT TIME OF INFORMATION
CENTER OPENING. THEIR REACTION WAS VERY POSITIVE. NEITHER GOY
NOR REPUBLIC AUTHORITIES IN SKOPJE WOULD ACCEPT LATE
CANCELLATION WITH EQUANIMITY OR EVEN GRACE FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

(1) IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT AT SOME POINT, SOONER OR LATER, REASONS
FOR CANCELLATION WOULD LEAK (IT IS EVEN A GOOD BET THAT SOME GOG
CIRCLES WILL WANT SKOPJE TO GET THE MESSAGE); (2) THEY WOULD,
THEREFORE, SUSPECT THAT WE HAVE YIELDED TO THIRD COUNTRY PRESSURE
TO CANCEL SCHEDULED TOP LEVEL VISIT HERE, IMPORTANT STEP IN
IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS; (3) GOY IS JUST AS SENSITIVE ABOUT
MACEDONIA AS GOG, AND FOR ITS PART RESENTS GREEK EFFORTS DOWNPLAY
SKOPJE' S IMPORTANCE AS UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE IN YUGOSLAV
INTERNAL AFFAIRS. FINALLY, WHILE GOY WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE NO
CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT CANCELLATION, I FEEL THAT MOVE WOULD CAST PALL
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BELGRA 02252 221208 Z

OVERINFORMATION CENTER' S OPENING AND LIKELY ADVERSELY AFFECT ITS OPERATIONS FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

3. YUGOSLAVS, AND MACEDONIANS IN PARTICULAR, WILL RECALL THAT WE PLANNED TO SEND SENATOR LAUSCHE TO LJUBLJANA OPENING. I FEEL CERTAIN THAT CANCELLATION OF PLANS TO DIGNIFY SKOPJE OPENING WITH SIMILAR HIGH- LEVEL ATTENDANCE WOULD BE WIDELY RESENTED. FACT THAT FEDERAL INFORMATION SECRETARY BUDIMOVSKI IS MACEDONIAN AND HIGHLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT OUR SKOPJE OPENING PROPOSALS WOULD BROADEN ADVERSE IMPACT.

4. SKOPJE IS BY NOW YUGOSLAVIA' S THIRD LARGEST CITY AND CONTINUES GROW AT FASTER RATE THAN ANY OTHERS. MACEDONIA IS A REPUBLIC WITH INCREASINGLY HEAVY US ECONOMIC INTERESTS. WHILE I AGREE WE SHOULD AVOID UNNECESSARILY OFFENDING GOG SENSIBILITIES, US INTERESTS IN YUGOSLAVIA REQUIRE THAT WE EVENTUALLY ACCEPT FACT OF SKOPJE' S EXISTENCE AND IMPORTANCE AND GIVE IT TREATMENT EQUAL TO THAT ACCORDED OTHER MAJOR URBAN CENTERS.

5. AT THIS DELICATE STAGE IN YUGOSLAV DEVELOPMENTS, IT WOULD NOT BE IN OUR INTERESTS TO TAKE STEP WHICH WOULD BE DAMAGING, PERHAPS SERIOUSLY DAMAGING, TO OUR RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA. I FEEL WE SHOULD PROCEED WITH KEOGH VISIT AS PLANNED.
TOON

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** STADIS, EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BELGRA02252
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730550/aaaajne.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <09-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980225
Subject: OPENING OF SKOPJE INFORMATION CENTER
TAGS: PFOR, GR, US, YO
To: ATHENS
SECSTATE WASHDC
SS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005